

WHO SitRep #18



18 - 19 January 2007

Highlights

- TFG President has requested the relocation of the U.N. offices for Somalia from Nairobi to Mogadishu.
- UN priorities in South and Central Somalia are the provision of essential health services, sanitation, income generation activities, resettlement of internally displaced people and the de-mobilization and reintegration of militias.
- Two blood samples of suspected human RVF cases from Somalia tested negative by Nairobi KEMRI/CDC laboratory

Security

- Uganda has committed to contributing 8,000 troops to the proposed African Mission for Somalia.

IDP/Refugee movements

- Displaced Somalis near the Kenyan border have received some food assistance from World Food Program (WFP) despite the recent closure of the border.
- Kenya will offer safe passage to UNHCR to access Somali refugees stranded at the border.

Communications/Somalia logistics cluster

- Access to Jowhar and Kismayo continues to be hampered. Jowhar airstrip security is considered inadequate, while Kismayo airstrip is off limits for humanitarian flights.

Health Response

Assessment and monitoring

Rift Valley Fever - Somalia

- The two human blood samples received from Somalia last Wednesday tested negative for RVF by ELISA and PCR. Efforts are ongoing to receive more samples from Somalia for testing.
- As of January 18, 2007 a total of 62 probable cases, including 32 deaths, have been reported from Afmadow, Kismayo, Jalalagsi, Bardera, Jira village, Galgadod, Liboy, Barowdinle and Marere. In the last 24 hours 8 new cases including 4 deaths were reported from Marere, Dhobly and Luug.
- WHO Polio team and partners report that 90% of animals had aborted and presented nasal bleeding (epistaxis) in Khakage, NW of Salage District.
- WHO Somalia will facilitate transport and testing of blood samples to be sent by MSF-H from Marere within the next two days.

Hospital casualties

- Baidoa hospital: No new war wounded. The number of war wounded in-patients remains at 48.

Coordination

- WHO team contributed in developing UN transitional plan for Somalia from January 17th -19th.

Filling Gaps & capacity building activities

- Training of WHO officers in charge and partners on RVF was completed.